



Brownfields Assessment Pilots

Franklin Regional Council of Governments, MA

BACKGROUND

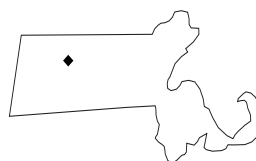
EPA has selected the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) for a Brownfields Assessment Pilot. FRCOG is the regional planning agency for Franklin County, the target community. The county encompasses 26 towns and 71,535 people in the rural upper Connecticut River valley of western Massachusetts. Seven of the towns border the Connecticut River, a designated American Heritage River. Although the valley has a strong agricultural heritage, manufacturing represents the county's largest employment sector. Yet, many large manufacturing centers, including several mills and tool and die factories that capitalized on the county's abundant hydropower and natural resources, are in decline. Plants have closed and left behind environmental problems that discourage the growth of smaller, more specialized businesses. This Pilot targets a number of identified former mill and paper manufacturing facilities for assessment.

Towns that have historically thrived on manufacturing are faced with vacant, industrial properties with suspected contamination in areas adjacent to low income neighborhoods. Population declines in the area reflect an out-migration of the work force as a result of plant closures and job losses. Franklin County has a per capita income of \$13,945, which is significantly lower than state and national levels. Eleven of the 25 towns have a higher proportion of people living below the poverty level than the state average.

OBJECTIVES

FRCOG's overall objective is to apply a regional approach to the identification, assessment, cleanup, and reuse of brownfields for communities in Franklin County that lack the capacity to undertake such a program alone. As part of this objective, the Pilot will inventory potential brownfields, develop site selection criteria, involve municipalities and residents in impacted neighborhoods, assess targeted sites, and plan cleanup strategies.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Franklin Regional Council
of Governments,
Massachusetts*

Date of Announcement:
May 2002

Amount: \$ 200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets several brownfields in the downtown and mill districts of an economically depressed former New England mill town.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
www.epa.gov/brownfields

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Inventorying and mapping potential brownfield sites in collaboration with the affected communities;
- Conducting six Phase I environmental site assessments at selected sites;

- Conducting four to six Phase II environmental site assessments; and
- Preparing cleanup plans for one to two sites.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.